

Glossary

Air - A mixture of invisible, odorless, and tasteless gases which surrounds the earth's surface. Air is essential for living things to survive, it takes up space and performs work.

Air Pollution -The contamination of the atmosphere by pollutants such as fuel exhaust, smoke, and industrial waste gases.

Air flow - The motion of air.

Breathe - To inhale oxygen into the lungs and exhale carbon dioxide from the lungs.

Carbon monoxide - A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas, produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gasoline, oil, wood, and incomplete combustion of many natural and synthetic products.

Carbon dioxide - A colorless, odorless gas which consists of carbon and oxygen. It is the product of

Colorless - Having no color, invisible.

Emissions - Pollution discharged into the atmosphere from a source such as smokestacks, vents, and other commercial facilities, motor vehicle, aircraft and locomotives.

Environment - The circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded.

Environmental Protection Agency - (EPA) Federal Agency of the United States Government whose mission is to protect public health and to safeguard & improve the natural environment - air, water, and land - upon which human life depends.

Hazardous - Involving or exposing one to risk.

HVAC system - Includes all heating, cooling, and ventilating equipment serving a building. Controls temperature and relative humidity to provide thermal comfort to building occupants.

Indoor Environment- The circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded indoors. Indoor environments in any buildings is the result of interactions among site, climate, building structure, mechanical systems, construction techniques, contaminant sources, and occupants.

Indoor Air Quality - The quality of air that we breathe indoors.

Inhalation - The act of taking in material by inhaling. The process the body receives air into the lungs.

Nitrogen Oxides - Gaseous compounds made up of nitrogen and oxygen. Sources of nitrogen oxides include vehicles, power plants burning fossil fuels, and coal-burning stoves.

Odorless - Having no odor or smell.

Ozone - A gaseous pollutant found in our atmosphere caused by vehicle exhaust and certain other fumes, and air pollutants in the presence of sunlight.

Particulate Matter - Very small separate particles, such as dust, or fibers. Major sources of atmospheric particulates include combustion of coal, gasoline, and fuel.

Pathways - A path or course in which a material, chemical, or gas takes.

Pesticides - Toxins used indoors to eliminate many household pests such as bugs, and are also used on indoor house plants, and pets. Pesticides are used outdoors on plants and lawns and can be in the form of sprays, and powders.

Pinwheel - An object consisting of lightweight vanes that revolve at the end of a stick.

Pollutant - Any substance introduced into the environment that affects the usefulness of a resource. Pollutants are unwanted materials and chemicals found in the air which cause damage to air quality and human health.

Pollution - An adverse impact upon the natural environment usually caused as a by-product of manufacturing or using a product.

Sulfur Dioxide - A gaseous compound made up of sulfur and oxygen. Sulfur dioxides are the results of coal-burning power plants and industries, coal-burning stoves, and refineries.

Tasteless - Having no taste.

Ventilation - A system or means by which stale indoor air is exhausted to the outside and fresh air is drawn inside.

Wind - A natural or artificially produced movement of air.

Work - The activity in which something exerts strength to do or perform something. Forceful air, known as wind, can push a sailboat or help lift an airplane off the ground.